

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 200

By White

A RESOLUTION to recognize Derri Smith on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service ; and

WHEREAS, Derri Smith is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as the founder and chief executive officer of End Slavery Tennessee and recently announced her retirement; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Abilene Christian College with a bachelor's degree in education, Ms. Smith began her professional career as a classroom teacher in Dayton, Ohio, in the 1970s and 1980s; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, she began a ten-year tenure as an international refugee worker, serving refugees in Austria from communist Eastern Europe with a team of multi-national leaders; and

WHEREAS, Derri Smith served as the director of End Slavery Ministries for two years before founding End Slavery Tennessee, having felt called to establish an agency to provide services to local victims; and

WHEREAS, in her new position as founder and chief executive officer of End Slavery Tennessee, she co-founded the Tennessee Anti-Slavery Alliance; in November 2017, she testified at a U.S. Congressional hearing that essentially led to the shutdown of Backpage.com; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Derri Smith was named Most Admired CEO and a Woman of Influence by the *Nashville Business Journal* in 2018, received the Trafficking in America Service Award in 2012 and the Tennessee Human Rights

Commission's Outstanding Service Award in 2016, and was a speaker at TEDx Nashville in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Derri Smith exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Derri Smith has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Derri Smith our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.